KIDS VOTING NORTH CAROLINA

ECTON GUIDE

Rowan County

BY YOUTH, FOR YOUTH
KIDSVOTINGDURHAM.ORG



Our Mission

Kids Voting NC helps youth under 18 believe in and understand the power they can have as engaged civic participants and informed voters. Through a combination of youth voice opportunities, classroom lessons & tools for family engagement, and an authentic voting experience, Kids Voting NC is helping build an empowered, engaged, and educated generation of democratic civic participants.

Created by Kids Voting Civic Youth Leaders

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Not Old Enough to Vote, but Old Enough to Care

A LETTER FROM KIDS VOTING YOUTH LEADERS TO YOUTH

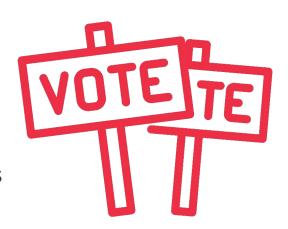
As the future of North Carolina, you can play a major role in the upcoming election. Youth 18 and under make up about 22% of North Carolina's population. Together, we have the power to make a difference in the elections.

Voter awareness and participation is huge, as policies that affect day-to-day life are at stake. The more you know about candidates, the better. Use your knowledge to speak with your peers and parents about the issues and elections that matter most to you. Talk like this election affects you—because it does!

As youth, elected officials want to hear our unique perspectives. Most of the candidates in this election answered our questions; they listened to us, and they'll listen to you too. All you have to do is speak up for what you believe in.

5 WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE ELECTIONS, EVEN IF YOU CAN'T LEGALLY VOTE

- 1 Make sure the adults in your life make an informed decision about their vote
 - Make sure adults know the candidates, issues, voting dates, and requirements.
 Talk with them about the KVD election guide, or help them make a voting plan.
- Use your voice
 - Talk about issues you care about, contact elected officials, and stand up for your beliefs
- Throw an election party
 - Voting is something to celebrate.
 Organize a party with people of all ages to talk about the upcoming election.
- Vote and volunteer with Kids Voting
 - Youth under 18 can vote in KVD Youth elections to share what they think about the same candidates adults are voting for.
 - Volunteer to run a Kids Voting polling site where other youth can vote
- Get out the vote
 - Host a "Pledge the Vote" drive to help adults vote in the elections



Message For Parents & Caregivers

62% of youth say they hear about elections and voting from their families – more than any other source, including schools! You are the most important influence on your child's civic motivation and activities! We encourage you not only to be engaged in the elections yourself but to share that engagement with the youth in your life.

Kids Voting Durham has resources to help you with:

★ Information about the Candidates & Issues

Read through this Kids Voting Election Guide together or explore the Instagram version MKVDElectionGuide. Check out the Resources section at the end of this guide for more nonpartisan election information resources.

★ Family-friendly volunteer opportunities

Run a Kids Voting polling site on Election Day or during early voting and help other youth and families to become more civically engaged and aware. It's easy and the whole family can take part. Go to kidsvotingdurham.org/2022volunteers to learn more!

★ Family voting

Vote together as a family at one of the Early Voting sites with Kids Voting like North Regional or Main library or at a polling site with Kids Voting on election day. Any family can bring kids to vote at one of our sites even if the adults are not eligible to vote or are not assigned to that precinct

More recommendations for parents & caregivers supporting children's civic engagement can be found in CIRCLE: Growing Voters, a report from the Tufts Jonathan M. Tisch College of CivicLife circle.tufts.edu/circlegrowingvoters

Mensaje para padres y responsables del cuidado de los niños

El 62% de los jóvenes dicen que se enteran de las elecciones y del voto a través de sus familias - ¡más que cualquier otra fuente, incluyendo las escuelas! Usted es la influencia más importante en la motivación y las actividades cívicas de su hijo. Le animamos a que no sólo participe en las elecciones usted mismo, sino que comparta ese compromiso con los jóvenes de su vida.

Kids Voting Durham tiene recursos para ayudarle con:

★ Información sobre los candidatos y temas

Lean juntos esta guía electoral de Kids Voting o exploren la versión de Instagram en MKVDElectionGuide. Consulte la sección de recursos al final de esta guía para obtener más recursos de información electoral no partidista.

★ Oportunidades de ser voluntarios para la familia

Dirija un recinto electoral de Kids Voting el día de las elecciones o durante la votación temprana y ayude a otros jóvenes y familias a comprometerse y estar más involucrados cívicamente. It's easy and the whole family can take part. Es fácil y toda la familia puede participar. ¡Visite kidsvotingdurham.org/2022volunteers para obtener más información!

★ Votar en familia

Voten juntos en familia en uno de los recintos de votación temprana con Kids Voting, como la biblioteca North Regional o Main, o en un recinto electoral con Kids Voting el día de las elecciones. Cualquier familia puede llevar a los niños a votar a uno de nuestros centros, incluso si los adultos no son elegibles para votar o no están asignados a ese distrito electoral.

Se pueden encontrar más recomendaciones para los padres y cuidadores que apoyan el compromiso cívico de los niños en CIRCLE: Growing Voters, un informe del Tufts Jonathan M. Tisch College of CivicLife en circle.tufts.edu/circlegrowingvoters

Kids Can Vote Too! Here's How:

Where

Rowan County Cooperative Extension 2727 Old Concord Road Salisbury, NC 28146

When

Tuesday, November 8, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

How

Electronic Ballot on an iPad set up in a voting booth in the lobby of our building

Youth voices matter, so bring a friend & get informed! (Read the guide!)



First-Time Voter Information

You're eligible to vote, if you:

- 1) Are 18 years or older by Tuesday, Nov 8
- 2) Are a U.S. citizen
- 3) Have lived in North Carolina for at least 30 days
- 4) Are not currently serving a sentence for a felony

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- ★ You must register in order to vote. You can register in-person, online at [LOCAL LINK], by mail, or at One-Stop Early Voting
- ★ You may vote at ANY polling place during One-Stop Early Voting, Oct 20—Nov 5
 - Find early voting information at https://www.richmondnc.com/178/Board-of-Elections
- ★ You may ONLY vote at your designated polling place on Election Day
 - Find your polling location at https://www.richmondnc.com/178/Board-of-Elections
- No voter ID is needed in NC, but you may need to show a photo ID & provide proof of address (bank statement, utility bill, paycheck, or government document) if you're a first-time voter and are registering at One-Stop Early Voting

and download a sample copy of your ballot, visit vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/

To check your registration

Make a plan to vote to make sure you get to the polls, and check out this guide on how to vote for adults!





About the Offices



In 2022, we elect offices from the Federal, State, and Local/District levels.



FEDERAL OFFICES

US SENATE & HOUSE

The US Congress is made up of the House and Senate. The US House and Senate write & vote on US laws, create the budget for the country & decide how federal money is spent, and have the power to declare war. The Senate also has the ability to accept or reject presidential nominations for heads of federal agencies, federal judges, and the Supreme Court, as well as approve treaties with foreign governments.

To learn more, visit house.gov & senate.gov



The **US House** is made up of 435 members called **Representatives** or **Congresspersons.** The number of representatives each state has in the House depends on that state's population. Congressional Representatives are elected to 2-year terms.

North Carolina has **13** representatives in the U.S. House. In 2022, that number will increase to **14.** US House Representatives are elected by the voting citizens in their **district.** In North Carolina, the districts are decided by the NC House.

The **US Senate** consists of 100 members, 2 from each state, called **Senators**. Senators are elected to 6-year terms. North Carolina has **2** US Senators who are elected in alternating election cycles.

STATE OFFICES

NC STATE HOUSE & SENATE

The North Carolina Assembly is made up of the Senate and the House, and is the Legislative Branch of our State Government.



The NC State **Senate** has **50 members**, and the North Carolina **House of Representatives** has **120 members**. Each member is elected for a term of 2 years. The NC State House and Senate work hand in hand to make the laws, budget, and policies for the State of North Carolina.

To learn more, visit ncleg.gov/senate & <a href="mailto:ncleg.gov/senate & <a href="mai

NC STATE SUPREME COURT

NC is one of 21 states that elect judges rather than appointing them.



The State Supreme Court is the highest court in North Carolina for state matters, and is the top level of NC's State **Judicial Branch**. This court interprets the law and determines if lower courts made any errors in their rulings. The NC State Supreme Courts consist of a Chief **Justice** and 6 **Associate Justices (Judges)**.

NC Supreme Court Justices serve **8-year** terms. As of 2018, NC State Supreme Court Elections are **partisan**, meaning that each candidate runs with a political party. (Prior to 2018, NC judicial elections were non-partisan).

NC COURT OF APPEALS

The NC Court of Appeals is the court under the NC State Supreme Court. The Court of Appeals reviews trial court rulings to make sure the law was applied correctly. Judges are elected and serve eight-year terms. Four Court of Appeals seats are up for election in 2022.

To learn more about State courts, visit nccourts.gov/courts/supreme-court and nccourts.gov/courts/court-of-appeals

COUNTY OFFICES

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

The Rowan County Board of Commissioners consists of 5 members who are elected at large in countywide elections to serve four-year staggered terms.



The Board's main purpose is to maintain fiscal responsibility while providing mandated services as set out in the General Statutes and for additional services as passed on to the County by state and federal governments. The Board is also responsible for setting policies, goals and objectives to direct the County's growth and development; adopting and providing for ordinances, rules and regulations as necessary for the general welfare of County citizens and other services deemed appropriate and necessary by the Board.

CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

The Clerk of Superior Court is an elected judicial official and holds office for a four-year term.

REGISTER OF DEEDS

The Rowan County Register of Deeds office provides numerous services to the working community and the general public. By law, the Register of Deeds is charged with the integrity, completeness, accuracy, and safekeeping of all public records recorded in the office.

SHERIFF A message from the ROWAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



The mission of the Sheriff's Office is to promote professional law enforcement to the citizens of Rowan County, North Carolina through efficient and effective methods. This mission encompasses functions of courthouse security, civil process, operation of detention facility, investigations and community patrol.

ROWAN-SALISBURY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Rowan-Salisbury Board of Education is made up of seven members, representing different geographic region of Rowan County. This board establishes the policies that govern Rowan-Salisbury School System, including curriculum, facilities, financial resources and personnel. The board also evaluates the superintendent. Board members are elected every four years in nonpartisan elections and their terms are staggered.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Under NC General Statute 139, soil and water conservation districts are organized as governmental subdivisions of the state, as well as independent political units. Districts work closely with county, state and federal governments and both public and private organizations in a non-regulatory capacity to carry out a comprehensive conservation program that protects and improves the county's natural resources while assisting private landowners in using conservation practices.

Issues: Who Decides?

Almost every issue is one that impacts youth in some way and that some youth care about. The issues below are a few that were mostly commonly raised as issues youth care about in polls from <u>Gallup</u> and <u>Pew</u> research centers. You can find more information on these and other issues at:

- Pew Research Center
- Gallup

- AllSides
- Above the Noise
- KQED Learn
- Deliberating in a Democracy

1. ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

53% of Americans believe that climate change is an important issue in the upcoming election, according to Gallup. Youth often express a greater concern about climate change and the environment than older voters.

- Many Americans believe that policies intended to address climate challenges will harm the economy, especially in relevance to rising gas prices and the cost of living, while others think environmental protection should be given priority over economic development
- Environmental issues overwhelmingly affect lower-income, Black and Brown communities—Black Americans are <u>75% more likely</u> to be living near hazardous environmental pollutants

Federal: US Senate & House	 ★ Legislation on issues that cross state boundaries such as the Clean Air Act ★ Funding and creation of federal agencies such as EPA to enforce environmental policy
State: State House & Senate	★ Create NC-specific environmental legislation—legislature recently required a 70% reduction of 2005 utilities emissions by 2030
State Supreme Court	★ Rules on the constitutionality of laws and executive orders pertaining to the environment
Local: Soil & Water	★ Soil & Water manages and conserves natural resources by providing environmental education, technical assistance for agriculture, and funding nature restoration efforts

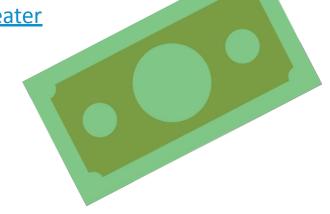
2. THE ECONOMY

In a recent <u>Gallup poll</u>, 40% of Americans said the most important problem facing our country is the economy:

Inflation—a rise in prices, especially of basics like food and housing
 —reached its highest point in 41 years in June 2022

 Wages are also rising in NC, but the increase in <u>prices from inflation at 9.1% is greater</u> <u>than the increase in wages</u> of 5.1%

 The average home price in NC is \$377,055 according to Motley Fool, an increase of over 20% from recent years.



Federal: US Senate & House	★ National minimum wage★ Federal income tax rate
State: State House & Senate	 ★ What incentives to offer companies to come to NC & create new jobs ★ State minimum wage (may be higher than the national minimum wage, but not lower) ★ Regulations for companies in NC ★ State income and property tax rates
State Supreme Court	★ Makes final rulings on State laws & lower courts decisions on labor, business, and other economic matters

3. HEALTHCARE

Healthcare has always been a major issue in the United States of America, but recently has been increasing in importance. According to Gallup, 81% of Americans say that healthcare policy is very important when making election decisions. Some specific examples of issues within healthcare include:

- Women's reproductive healthcare and abortion access (Roe v. Wade)
- COVID-19
- Medicaid Expansion/Affordability
- Health insurance regulation



Federal: US Senate & House	 ★ National financial relief to offer for health disasters like COVID-19, such as the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. ★ Funding for federal health agencies such as the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) ★ National healthcare legislation governing insurance like the AHCA
State: State House & Senate	 ★ NC-specific health regulations such as mask requirements ★ Medicaid offerings and expansion ★ State regulation of insurance companies
State Supreme Court	★ Whether or not NC healthcare laws and Executive branch policies are constitutional.
Local: District Judge & Clerk of Court	★ Rule on mental competency; minor & family healthcare matters

4. GUN VIOLENCE & PREVENTION

According to <u>Pew</u>, American deaths due to gun-related injuries have been sharply increasing since 2016. Most of these deaths are from stand alone events, though mass shootings have been on the rise in many public places, even in school settings. This has established gun violence to be a frequent topic of youth activism in recent years. Topics within the concept of gun violence include:

- Gun control (accessibility/restrictions)
- Mass shootings

Federal: US Senate & House	 ★ National standards for gun safety ★ Whether to Regulate gun sales through national commerce laws and taxation ★ Funding for federal agencies such as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF).
State: State House & Senate	★ State standards for gun safety, ownership, and use
State Supreme Court	★ Final ruling on state laws and lower court decisions regulating gun ownership and safety
Local: District Attorney	★ Whether to prosecute violations of gun laws
Sheriff	★ Local enforcement of gun laws
District Court Judges	★ Rule on cases involving illegal gun use & possession according to current laws

5. EDUCATION

Under the US Constitution, states have the primary responsibility and authority for providing a public education to its citizens. The NC Constitution guarantees that every NC child will receive a sound basic public education. Over half of US citizens say that education is a major issue. In North Carolina, some of these issues include:

Teacher pay

Diversity & equity

Public school funding

School vouchers

Curriculum (what's taught in schools)

Federal: US Senate & House	 ★ Protect civil rights & ensure all students have equal access to a free and appropriate education ★ Funding incentives to states for following national education recommendations (such adopting Common Core educational standards) ★ Funding for federal agencies such as the United States Department of Education
State: State House & Senate	 ★ School standards (what schools must or cannot teach) ★ Primary funding for public schools ★ Base teacher pay ★ Maximum classroom size ★ Funding for state universities and community college system
State Supreme Court	★ Can order the state to take actions to meet its obligation to provide a public education (for examples, the Leandro Case)
Local: District Attorney, District Judges	★ Truancy
Soil & Water	★ Providing environmental education

6. RACISM, EQUITY, & CIVIL RIGHTS

Issues of equity and civil rights are issues that are an element of all issues and government decisions. Racial equity and other equity issues have been the focus of many youth organizing efforts in North Carolina and the country in recent years. Aspects of this issue include:

- LGBTQ+ rights
- Racial Equity
- Language Justice



YOU ELECT:

THEY DECIDE:

Federal: US Senate & House	 ★ Federal non-discrimination policies ★ Support and develop federal agencies such as the Office of Minority Health.
State: State House & Senate	★ The state House & Senate both create state specific legislation such as employment nondiscrimination laws and the ability to change gender markers on legal documents.
State Supreme Court	★ Can rule on constitutionality and existing laws
Local: District Attorney	★ District Attorneys prosecute violations of laws protecting minorities and civil rights.
Sheriff	★ Sheriff enforces laws related to equity.

Political Parties & Elections

WHAT IS A POLITICAL PARTY?

A **political party** is an organized group of citizens that hold similar goals and ideas. In order to implement their ideas, political parties seek to control government by winning elections and working together to pass legislation and policies that favor their positions.

A party's **platform** is a set of political ideas and goals that party leaders agree on to let the public know what they stand for. Just because a candidate runs as a member of the Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, or Green Party doesn't mean they agree or promise to uphold every part of a party's platform, even if they are running associated with that party.

PARTIES & ELECTIONS

Elections for each race are either partisan or nonpartisan. In non-partisan elections, like the Soil & Water Supervisor Race, candidates do not run affiliated with a party. In partisan elections, candidates must run with the backing of a political party or meet the qualifications to run as an "unaffiliated" candidate. In primary elections, held before the general election, voters from each party choose which candidate will represent their party on the ballot for each office. In races where there is only one candidate running for a party, there were often more candidates running for that party's nomination in the primary.

This November, you will see candidates affiliated with the **Democratic Party** (D), the **Republican Party** (R), the **Libertarian Party** (L), and the **Green Party** (G) on the ballot. Candidates that don't affiliate with any party in a partisan election are identified as "unaffiliated" (U). Sometimes unaffiliated candidates are called "independents."

What about write-in candidates? Do they need to have a political party?

<u>Write-in voting laws are complex</u>. Write-in candidates are not affiliated with a political party, but they do need to hand in paperwork and signed citizen petitions prior to the election for votes for them to count. Kids Voting does not have a write-in option on its ballot.

PACs

A Political Action Committee (PAC) is an organization created to support and raise funds and awareness about candidates that they "endorse" (meaning formally support). A PAC must be registered with the Federal Election Commission (FEC), and may be formed by any group, including businesses, individuals, labor unions, and special interest groups. PACS can donate money to candidates or parties they support and raise money from individuals. At the national level, super PACS can accept unlimited funds and support federal election candidates, but cannot directly donate to federal candidates or parties. PACs may endorse candidates they think will best serve the interests of the people, issues, or political ideas of their group.

NORTH CAROLINA PACS

The NC Democratic Party and the NC Republican Party are the two biggest PACs in North Carolina, raising a combined \$6,694,423 so far for the 2022 election season. You can find information on all NC PAC spending at transparencyusa.org/nc/pacs.

PARTIES ON THE 2022 NC BALLOT

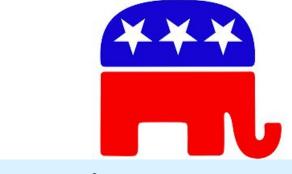




Platform:

lp.org/platform





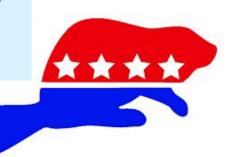
Republicans

Platform: gop.com/about-our-party

Green Party

Platform:

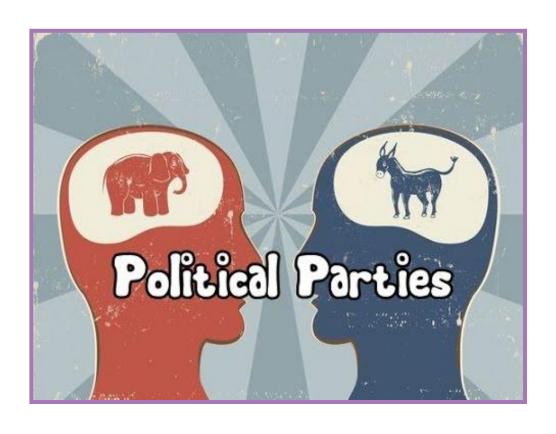
gp.org/platform



For more information on political parties, watch this 5-minute Youtube video from Reading Through History!

youtube.com/watc h?time_continue=11 &v=pLlvOv7JOXs&fe ature=emb_title





US Senate



Matthew Hoh
Green Party
matthewhohforsenate.org
facebook.com/matt4senate
twitter.com/MatthewPHoh
instagram.com/matt4senate
ballotpedia.org/Matthew_Hoh



Cheri Beasley
Democratic Party
cheribeasley.com
facebook.com/CheriBeasleyNC
twitter.com/CheriBeasleyNC
instagram.com/cheribeasleync
ballotpedia.org/Cheri_Beasley



Shannon W. Bray
Libertarian Party
shannonbray.us
facebook.com/ShannonBrayNC/
twitter.com/ShannonBrayNC
ballotpedia.org/Shannon Bray



Ted Budd
Republican Party
tedbudd.com
facebook.com/tedbuddforsenate
twitter.com/TedBuddNC
ballotpedia.org/Ted_Budd

NC Supreme Court Associate Justice, Seat 3 Candidates



Lucy Inman

Democratic Party

<u>lucyinmanforjustice.com</u>

twitter.com/JudgeLucyInman
instagram.com/teamlucyinman
ballotpedia.org/Lucy N. Inman



Richard Dietz
Republican Party
judgedietz.com
twitter.com/richard_dietz
ballotpedia.org/Richard_Dietz

NC Supreme Court Associate Justice, Seat 5 Candidates



Sam J. Ervin IV

Democratic Party
ervinforjustice.org
twitter.com/SamJErvin22
facebook.com/ervinforjustice
ballotpedia.org/Sam_Ervin_IV



Trey Allen
Republican Party
treyallennc.com
twitter.com/treyallennc + instagram.com/treyallennc
facebook.com/treyallennc
ballotpedia.org/Trey_Allen_(North_Carolina)

NC Court of Appeals Seat 8 Candidates

Julee Tate Flood

Republican Party ballotpedia.org/Jul ee_Flood

Carolyn Thompson

Democratic Party
carolynthompsonforjudge.com
twitter.com/CThompsonJudge
facebook.com/cthompsonjudge
ballotpedia.org/Carolyn_J._Thompson



NC Court of Appeals Seat 9 Candidates

Brad A. Salmon

Democratic Party judgebradsalmon.com ballotpedia.org/Brad Salmon

Donna Stroud

Republican Party judgestroud.com ballotpedia.org/Donna_Stroud

NC Court of Appeals Seat 10 Candidates

John M. Tyson

Republican Party judgejohntyson.com/

Gale Murray Adams

Democratic Party
<u>JudgeGaleAdams.com</u>
facebook.com/judgegaleadams
twitter.com/judgegaleadams
instagram.com/judgegaleadams



NC Court of Appeals Seat 11 Comparison Chart

Darren Jackson

Democratic Party judgedarrenjackson.com ballotpedia.org/Darren_Jackson

Michael J. Stading

Republican Party michaelstading.com ballotpedia.org/Michael_Stading

For Local Candidates, use the following websites for more information:

Rowan County Commission, Rowan County Superior Court Clerk, Rowan County Sheriff, Rowan County Register of Deeds:

https://www.ballotready.org/nc-rowan-county

Rowan-Salisbury Schools Board of Education:

View this video of a Candidate Forum held on October 17, 2022:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_PH9DatxV4



Glossary

BALLOT: a way of casting a written vote on candidates and issues

BOND: A loan to a government, given to fund large projects such as construction

CANDIDATE: a person running

for office

DISTRICT: a part of a county or

city

ENDORSE: to formally support **NONPARTISAN:** Not associated

with any political parties **PARTISAN:** Associated with

political parties

PARTY PLATFORM: a set of political goals and ideas that party leaders agree on to let the public know what they stand for

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

(PAC): an organization created to support and raise funds and awareness for candidates they endorse

political party: an organized group of citizens that hold similar goals and ideas precinct: a district of a city or town; a location where people in that precinct vote

PRIMARY ELECTION: An election held before the general election for a political party to choose their candidates to run in the general election UNAFFILIATED (or INDEPENDENT): A candidate not associated with a political party